

## Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists issues first Civil Penalty Notice

On 19 December the Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists, Alison White, issued her first Civil Penalty Notice to Advocate Policy and Public Affairs Consulting Ltd. The Notice was issued as a result of lobbying during the pre-registration quarter, in breach of the Transparency in Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act 2014.

The Registrar had attempted to support Advocate to make an accurate declaration of its lobbying activity; regrettably, incorrect information was provided which came to light following the Office's own investigations.

The Registrar said:

*'I recognise that most consultant lobbyists are working hard to understand the legislation and what it means for them, and I have always been very clear that we will support those who work openly and honestly with me to get things right. However compliance with the Act and the accuracy of the information on the Register is not optional, and if consultant lobbyists are not entirely frank with me or fail to establish processes within their organisations that enable them to meet their legal duties, I will take this seriously.'*

On the 24 December, Advocate Policy and Public Affairs Consulting Ltd accepted the Civil Penalty and has since paid a fine of £2000.

The Registrar went on to say:

*'ORCL is approaching its first anniversary, and I expect consultant lobbyists to engage with us and take responsibility for getting things right. You can find guidance on how to register and comply with the legislation as well as my approach to information retention on the ORCL website.'*

**END**

### NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. The Office of the Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists was set up following the Transparency of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act 2014, in order to create and administer the statutory Register of Consultant Lobbyists.
2. The Registrar is an independent statutory office, established to keep and publish the Register of Consultant Lobbyists.

3. The Act specifies that an individual or organisation must not carry on the business of consultant lobbying unless they are entered in the Register of Consultant Lobbyists as defined by the Act.
4. Any person or organisation intending to conduct the business of consultant lobbying must be entered into the Register before doing so.
5. The Registrar has a range of civil and criminal powers available in circumstances where it is deemed a Consultant Lobbyist has failed to comply with the Act.